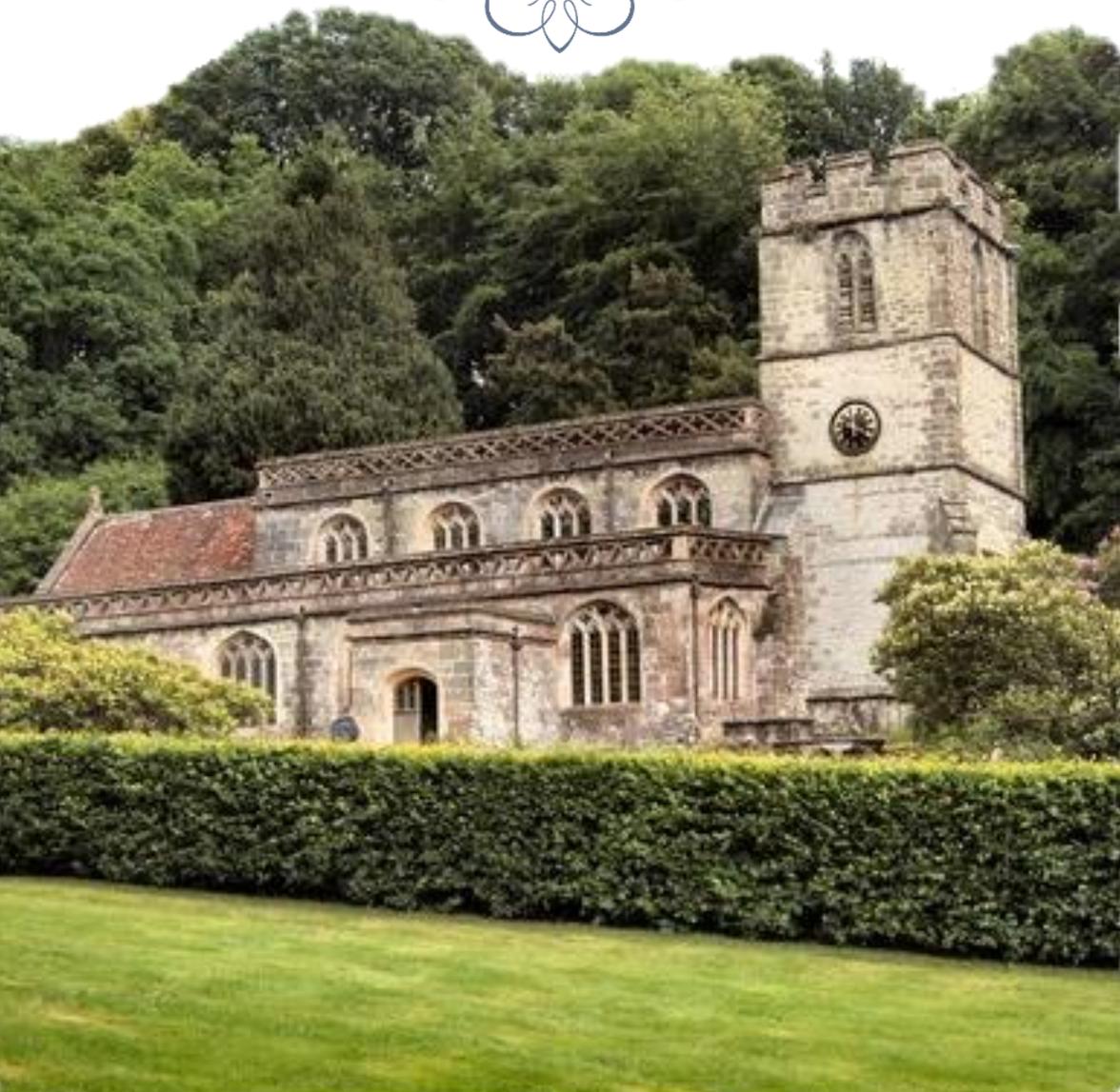


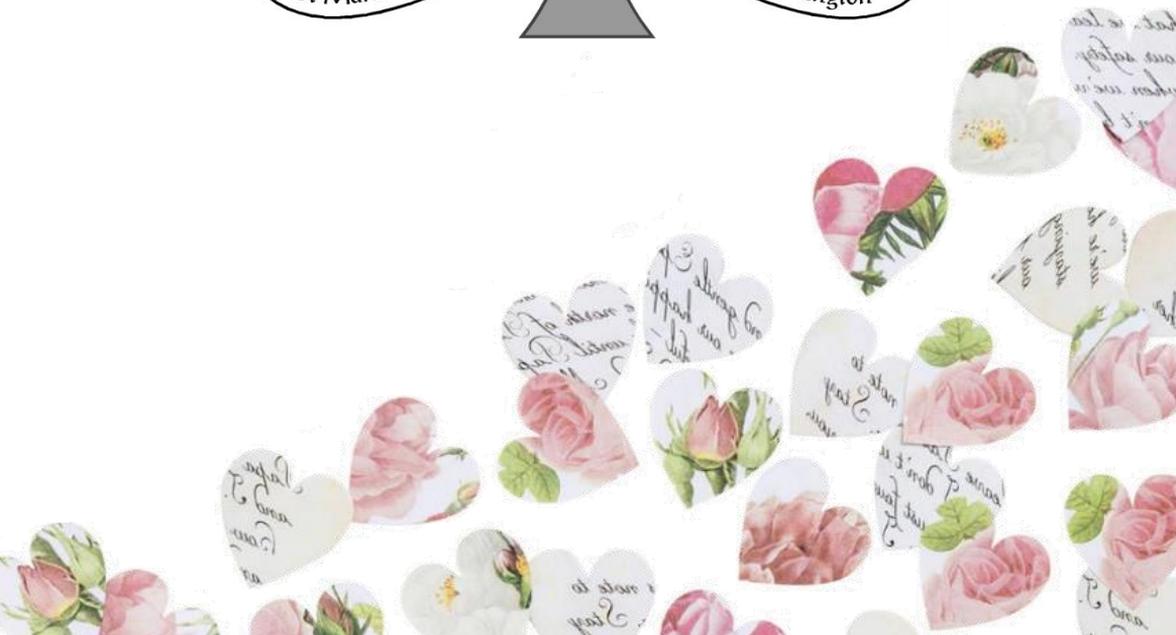
YOUR CHURCH

WEDDING



Congratulations on your Engagement!

Please be assured of the love and prayers of the Parish of Upper Stour as you embark on your journey.





YOUR CHURCH WEDDING

We are delighted that you are exploring getting married at St Peter's Church, Stourton! Each wedding is individual, so we look forward to working with you in this process. We have a range of weddings both grand and intimate; all weddings are special, and we feel privileged that we can join you on this journey.

This booklet is to guide you through what a wedding at St Peter's might look like, and how we can help you begin your marriage in a way which suits you both. As you read on you will find some details about the service, some of the legal formalities, readings, hymns, music, flowers and bells. At the back of this booklet you will also find a helpful check list to work your way through as well as a list of fees and contact details.



The Service

A wedding is one of life's great moments, a time of solemn commitment as well as good wishes, feasting and joy.

Marriage is intended by God to be a creative relationship, as his blessing enables husband and wife to love and support each other in good times and in bad, and to share in family life. Marriage is based upon a solemn, public and life-long covenant between a man and a woman, declared and celebrated in the presence of God, family and friends.

A Church of England Wedding is also a legal ceremony, and we take this very seriously. What makes you legally married are the words and actions which you as a couple perform which are shown in this booklet. You will of course also receive a certificate of marriage as part of the service.

The Essential Parts of a Wedding Service

The only things you need for a church wedding are a couple, two witnesses and a priest. What makes a wedding special is the couple, and below are the words and actions you will perform on the day.

During your wedding you will each give your **consent** to one another, you will make **solemn vows**, you will declare your marriage by the **joining of hands** and you may each give and receive a **ring**.

CONSENT

As you give your consent to one another, you will promise to your partner that you will:

*love them, **comfort** them, **honour** and **protect** them,
and forsaking all others be faithful
to them for the rest of your lives.*

VOWS

As you make your vows to one another you will promise to take your partner to be your spouse:

*to have and to hold
from this day forward;
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish,
till death us do part;
according to God's holy law.
In the presence of God,
I make this vow.*

JOINING OF HANDS AND GIVING OF RINGS

Most couples choose both to give and receive a ring, however, sometimes men choose not to. As the rings are exchanged or the ring is given these words will be said by you:

*I give you this ring
as a sign of our marriage.
With my body I honour you,
all that I am I give to you,
and all that I have I share with
you, within the love of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

Banns

Banns – Banns are an announcement in church of your intention to marry and a chance for anyone to put forward a reason why the marriage may not lawfully take place. Banns are an ancient legal tradition and have been read out every week in churches across the land for millions of couples, over many centuries. After your forthcoming marriage is announced, the congregation will be invited to pray for you both. It can be quite special and moving to hear this, so do come along if you can. It's an exciting and happy time, so you're welcome to invite your family and friends to hear your banns too, if you'd like.

- **Banns need to be read in the parish where each of you lives as well as the church in which you are to be married, if that is somewhere else – that means that might be three separate parishes.** You must have your banns read out in church for three Sundays during the three months before the wedding. This is usually done over three consecutive Sundays but does not have to be.
- **Before you can marry in Upper Stour the Parish Office needs to see your Banns Certificates which will be given to you by each church where you have your banns read.**
- If there is not enough notice given for the banns to be read before the marriage is due to take place, or if one or both of you are British but do not live in England (or Wales), the Common Licence procedure needs to be used rather than banns.
- If one or both of you is a national of a country which is outside the European Economic Area, you will require a Superintendent Registrar's Certificate to marry, rather than have banns read.



MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE FORMS

age must be an exact copy of the entry in the register including any errors or corrections that may
terfoil should be completed in respect of every certificate
should be kept

On the day itself

The ushers should be in the church, with the orders of service, at least 45 minutes before the ceremony so that they can greet the guests. Please ask your guests to be in church in good time before the ceremony is due to start – at least 10 minutes. There should be no drinks or snacks in the church.

The bridegroom and best-man should arrive about 30 minutes before the service, and will be seated 10 minutes before the start time.

The bride should try to arrive in good time (aim for 5 minutes before the start time). While there can sometimes be delays due to traffic etc. everyone involved has made a big effort to get to the church on time, and so it is important that the bride is also on time, rather than “fashionably late”. It is also unfair to have a nervous bridegroom!

Of sound mind – While the Spread Eagle can seem like a very tempting antidote to nerves, the certificate you both sign is a legal document and therefore you must both be sober when you sign it. The wedding may not take place if it is believed that either the bride or bridegroom are not sober, as consent cannot be established.

Confetti may be thrown, but we ask for this to be at or below the archway, and it must be biodegradable.



Music, Hymns and Readings

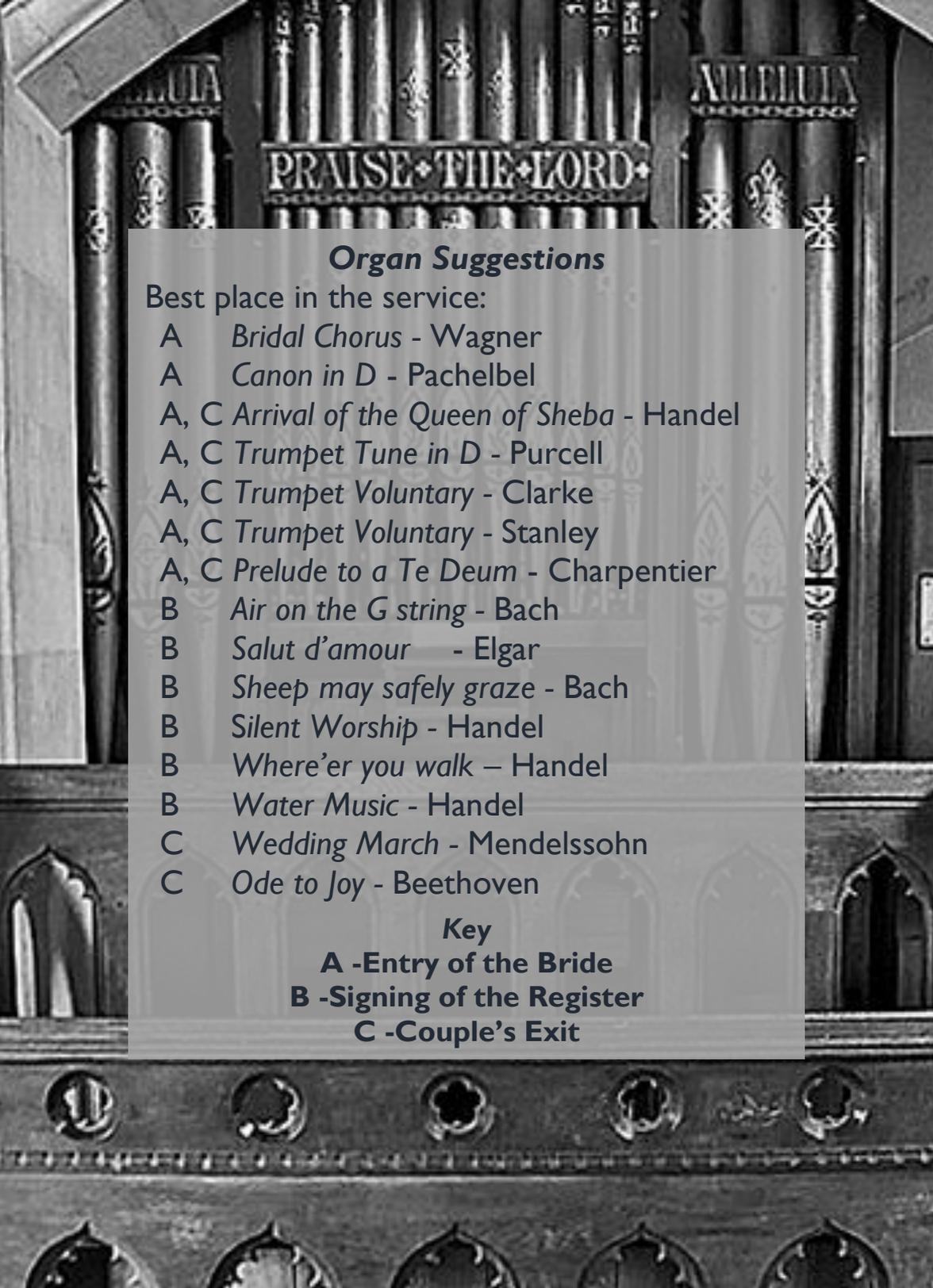
A wedding is a joyous occasion and so it is a great chance to sing with joy! Choosing the music, hymns and readings for your wedding day is a very personal thing and it is worth thinking about it for some time.

Most weddings will have **three hymns** and **two readings** with at least one reading being from the Bible. Then there will be music before the service, at the entrance of the bride, the signing of the register and as you both leave.

Music - Listed opposite are some traditional choices of organ music. There is nothing quite like the sound of a loud, uplifting organ piece for when the newly-married couple exit the church at the end. Alternatively, we also have the facility for MP3s to be played. If you'd like to play an MP3, please discuss your music choices with the priest conducting your service.

Hymns - yourchurchwedding.org gives examples of some good wedding hymns and will even play you a verse or two. When printing your order of service please use the words of the hymns from the "Your Church Wedding" website.

Readings - yourchurchwedding.org also gives you suggested readings - do remember to ask friends or family to read the readings!



PRAISE THE LORD

Organ Suggestions

Best place in the service:

- A *Bridal Chorus* - Wagner
- A *Canon in D* - Pachelbel
- A, C *Arrival of the Queen of Sheba* - Handel
- A, C *Trumpet Tune in D* - Purcell
- A, C *Trumpet Voluntary* - Clarke
- A, C *Trumpet Voluntary* - Stanley
- A, C *Prelude to a Te Deum* - Charpentier
- B *Air on the G string* - Bach
- B *Salut d'amour* - Elgar
- B *Sheep may safely graze* - Bach
- B *Silent Worship* - Handel
- B *Where'er you walk* - Handel
- B *Water Music* - Handel
- C *Wedding March* - Mendelssohn
- C *Ode to Joy* - Beethoven

Key

- A** -Entry of the Bride
- B** -Signing of the Register
- C** -Couple's Exit

Order of Service

Once you have chosen what music, readings and hymns you would like, the next step is to print your order of service. The parish website has two documents, one which is a full script which can be helpful if you need a translation, and another which gives you an idea of what needs putting in the order of service.

The Parish Office has examples of old orders of services which you are very welcome to have a look at for inspiration. Once you have completed the order of service, please send a copy to the Parish Office.



The Bells

The sound of church bells has been heard for hundreds of years, ringing out loud and clear, across the village and wider countryside, spreading the news of a celebration. Traditionally it is believed that newlyweds are being blessed by the joyful sound of the bells, as they start their married life together. Each of our six bells requires a highly trained ringer to skilfully control their bell and strike in time with the other team members. We really enjoy ringing for such a happy occasion, in celebration as the newly married couple emerge from the church to the lovely sound of the bells.

Ringers tend to ring before and after the service so that you can hear them as you arrive at church and when you leave together.

Please see our list of fees for more details.



Flowers

We will clear the church of the normal arrangements before the day of your wedding and would greatly appreciate it if you did not take all your flowers to the reception, thus leaving us with an empty church. We would particularly appreciate you leaving any altar flowers.

If you wish to decorate the archway or pew ends, please make sure that there is someone to remove them the next day. If you have a flower girl, please ask her not to throw petals in the church.

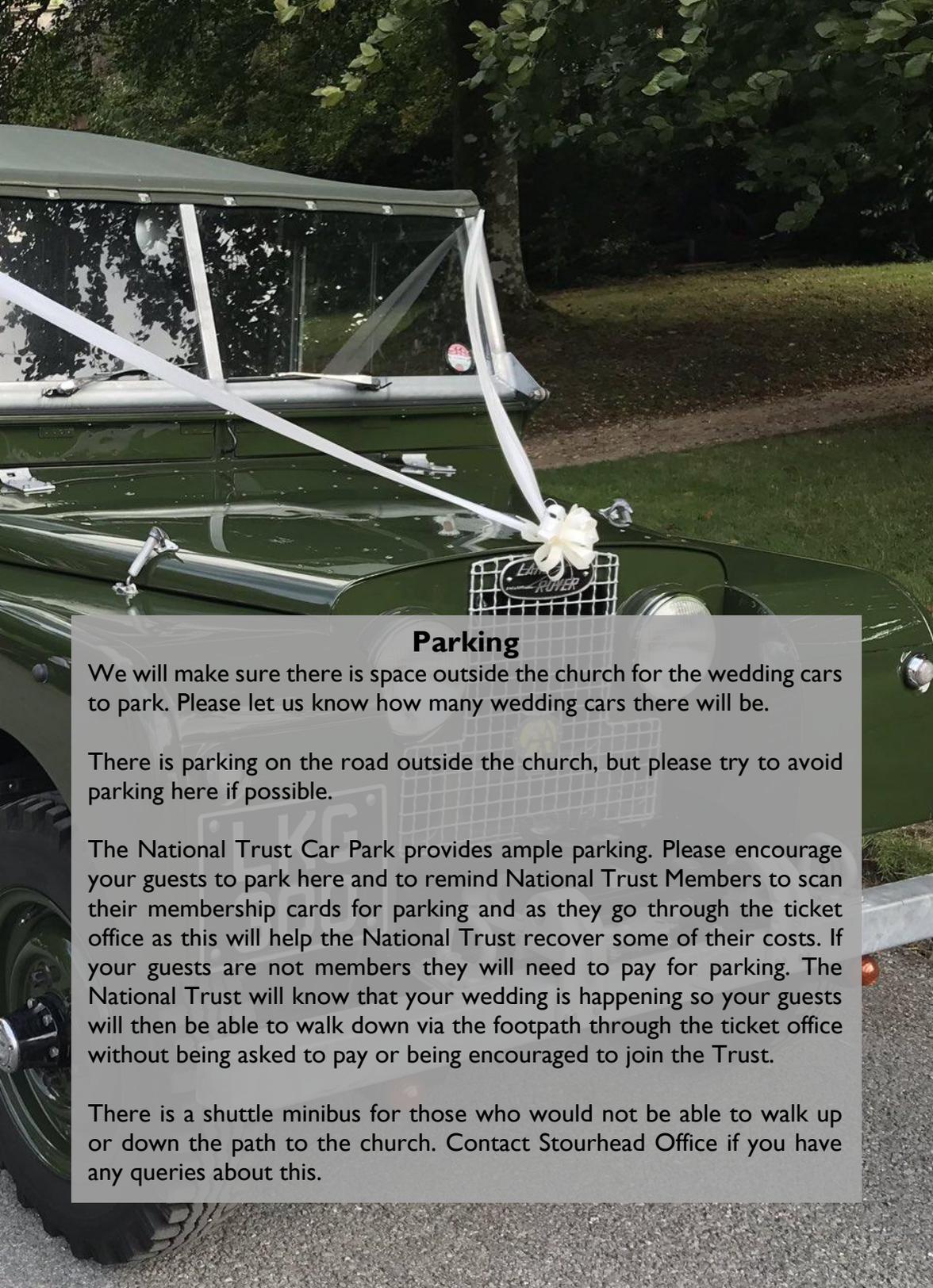
Generally, we would ask you to comply with the following guidelines regarding arrangements:

- We are not able to supply any containers – florists must bring their own.
- Oasis is to be supplied by the florist.
- We do have 2 pedestal stands and are happy to lend these.
- If you want to decorate the font, we have a flat “bare” covering, available on request (in place of the raised polished cover).
- Access to the vestry (for water) is possible on request.
- No tacks, nails, drawing pins, etc. may be used on any surface.
- Great care should be taken when watering flowers to ensure that no water is spilt on any wooden surface.
- Arrangements must be made for the removal of the flowers after an agreed time, and everything must be removed off site.
- There are no facilities for disposal of any rubbish: please take all rubbish away with you.

Please ask your florist to contact one of our Churchwardens at least 4 weeks before the wedding to let them know what the plans are for flowers in the church, when they would like access and when they plan to remove the flowers.

Church Florists

A team of local church florists would be happy to provide wedding flowers. They would need plenty of notice (ie 8 weeks minimum) and would like to meet on site first to work out what you would like: colour scheme, number of arrangements etc. Charges depend on what is required and would be based on the cost of the flowers as well as a suggested minimum donation listed on the list of fees. A deposit will be required. Please contact our church florist team in good time – contact details attached.



Parking

We will make sure there is space outside the church for the wedding cars to park. Please let us know how many wedding cars there will be.

There is parking on the road outside the church, but please try to avoid parking here if possible.

The National Trust Car Park provides ample parking. Please encourage your guests to park here and to remind National Trust Members to scan their membership cards for parking and as they go through the ticket office as this will help the National Trust recover some of their costs. If your guests are not members they will need to pay for parking. The National Trust will know that your wedding is happening so your guests will then be able to walk down via the footpath through the ticket office without being asked to pay or being encouraged to join the Trust.

There is a shuttle minibus for those who would not be able to walk up or down the path to the church. Contact Stourhead Office if you have any queries about this.

Stourhead National Trust

Please note that the church is part of the Church of England and is not part of the National Trust. The National Trust have generously agreed that bride, groom and photographer may enter the gardens for free for photographs. Please note that this does not include access to the grass bridge. Any other guests who wish to enter the gardens will need to purchase tickets for that purpose.

If you wish to take wedding photographs in the gardens, please get in touch with the Stourhead Office.



Check List

Legal Formalities

- We have given the form with our details to the Parish Office – Names, Addresses, Dates of Birth etc.
- We have organised Banns to be read at both of our home parishes (if you don't live within the Parish of Upper Stour)- **Do ask if this is a struggle**
- We have collected the Banns Certificate from both of our home parishes (if you don't live within the Parish of Upper Stour)- **Send this to the Parish Office**
- We have kept the Parish Office up to date with any details that have changed - particularly your address if you have moved since booking!

The Service

- We have given the form with our choices for the service to the Parish Office - Hymns, Bells, Flowers etc.
- We have looked at the **yourchurchwedding.org** website for inspiration
- We have spoken to the National Trust about Photography
- We have met with the Priest and booked a rehearsal
- We have asked people to read the readings at the Service
- We have asked two people to be Witnesses
- We have chosen Best-man, Bridesmaids, Ushers etc.
- We have spoken to the flower arranger – Particularly if you are asking for an arrangement from us
- We have printed the Orders of Service and sent a digital copy to the Parish Office.

Please always feel free to ask us anything if you are in any doubt!



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

**For any enquiries, please contact
the Parish Office of Upper Stour**

**Parish Office, The Rectory,
Portnells Lane, Zeals, BA12 6PG**

www.upperstour.co.uk

**parishoffice@upperstour.co.uk
01747 840221**